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Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Statement

Soroptimist International speaks on behalf of over 80,000 women from 3,000 communities across 127 countries and territories. We are founded on the principles of being a global collection of women who join our movement to serve women and girls locally, nationally and internationally. Our positions are based on their voices, perspectives and opinions. We are a bottom-up organization of like-minded individuals who all want the same thing — a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realize aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.

Soroptimist International has been working towards this goal since 1921 and, while we have seen extraordinary progress in some areas, many of the barriers facing women in 1921 are still prevalent now, albeit in different forms. Women and men still do not have access to the same capabilities, resources or opportunities.

Much of the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda centres on the idea of creating "the future we want". The members of the global Soroptimist movement believe that the shared vision of a future we want means, essentially, one thing — that no matter where you are born, whether you are male or female, whatever colour your skin is or who your parents are, whatever economic or political climate surrounds you, it is your human right to be free to achieve your fullest potential, and it is the global community's responsibility to ensure that you have the tools to do so.

No single Government, private institution or civil society organization can achieve this alone. Each player in this tripartite system brings different incentives, perspectives, priorities and, most importantly, expertise. It is only when all are working in concert that the vision for the future can be realized. It is absolutely critical that appropriate accountability mechanisms are not only in place but also enforced without exception in order to ensure that all actors are fulfilling their responsibilities.

The Millennium Development Goals were groundbreaking. While most, if not all, of the goals and targets already existed in international treaties, agreements or platforms for action, never before had the global community together agreed on a focused and achievable set of priorities with such clear targets and indicators. The Millennium Development Goals changed what we did and how we did it.

It is time to break ground again. The post-2015 development agenda must act as a catalyst to change the way we approach development. Development simply is not possible without including those affected by the decisions. No longer should we give individuals what we think they need. The time has come to turn the tables and give individuals what they say they need to achieve their fullest potential.

There are many lessons to be learned from the successes and shortcomings of the Millennium Development Goals. Challenges in implementation abound and more are identified every day. Soroptimist International, based on information gathered from our clubs around the world, would like to draw attention to the following specific issues:

- Women and girls live in a historically patriarchal world, with many local and national systems and structures still biased towards men. Many women and girls face daily challenges simply to survive. Research proves that these structures render women and girls more vulnerable and resource-poor than men, and less able to cope with crises or volatilities. Conflict, natural disasters and economic crises therefore affect women and girls more adversely than men and have created insurmountable barriers to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Without addressing the underlying structures that render women more vulnerable, women will remain at higher risk, and the global community will continue to face barriers to achieving development goals.

- Policies and programmes continue to focus on the tangible fixes: increasing enrolment in primary education, improving health services, reducing poverty, increasing food security and making clean water and sanitation part of everyday life. While all of the above will have a positive impact and will improve lives, they will never effect lasting change, not without addressing the underlying causes of poorer outcomes for women.

- The global community knows that what you measure significantly impacts on what you do and how resources are distributed. The Millennium Development Goals did not treat gender as a cross-cutting theme. Indicators for each and every goal should have been disaggregated by sex.

- Funding and financing were noticeably absent. It is of particular importance that there was no mention or requirement to deploy gender-responsive budgeting and gender audits.

- Accountability mechanisms were weak. All involved actors, in particular Governments and private institutions, must be held to account for their actions or lack thereof. Naming and shaming is usually not enough. Soroptimist International recognizes that it is difficult to create accountability mechanisms in a non-legally binding agreement, but many of the goals relate directly to rights defined in legally binding treaties and conventions. Much more work needs to be done to link development goals to legally binding human rights in order to improve accountability.

- Violence against women and girls was not addressed. This is one of the primary barriers to achieving gender equality and ensuring that women have equal access to resources. It is no wonder that the Millennium Development Goals did not achieve what they could have for women and girls.

- Gender has two sides, yet the Millennium Development Goals focused solely on women and girls. To truly effect change, attention must be paid to working with men and boys and breaking gender stereotypes for women and men.

With these challenges in mind, the global Soroptimist movement makes the following specific recommendations for the post-2015 development agenda, with a view to transforming the lives of women and girls:

- Whatever goals and targets are eventually agreed, the data collected on each and every one must be disaggregated by sex.

- Men and boys must be an integral part of empowerment programmes as we work to address the underlying social and economic determinants of the vulnerabilities of women and girls.

We therefore need to:

- Approach sex- or gender-based quotas with careful planning and ensure that women are, from an early age, fully equipped with all of the knowledge and skills necessary to take on leadership roles for which there may be allocations or other similar mechanisms. A woman who is given a position because of her sex, not her qualifications, is not achieving gender equality. On the other hand, a woman who is given a job because she has had equal and meaningful access to education throughout her life, has been afforded the same opportunities as men, has achieved her fullest potential and is fully qualified for the position is achieving true gender equality.

- Consider also that by encouraging women to enter traditionally male-dominated fields, there may be an inherent and underlying message that traditionally female-dominated fields are of lesser quality and importance. Alongside encouraging women to enter traditionally male-dominated fields, we also must work to encourage men to enter traditionally female-dominated fields in order to truly overcome and change occupational segregation. The unconscious bias in job selection works both ways.

- Exercise extreme caution to avoid implying that gender equality is about women taking on male roles. Many of the gender equality targets and indicators measure women taking on male roles, thus creating a world where neither women nor men are given the fullest spectrum of choice and opportunity to shape their lives as they want. We, as the global community, must not judge or impose but rather support and enable. We must also look at creating work environments that are conducive to both men and women having families.

- Ensure that a stand-alone goal that includes a target on eliminating violence against women is measured in a progressive and reliable way. Rather than solely tracking reported incidents, which could create perverse incentives or unintended negative consequences, we should also be measuring access to appropriate services, sensitivity training for law enforcement, laws that protect women from violence and criminal justice systems that do not allow gender-based violence to continue.

- Guarantee that discussions on financing and resourcing the post-2015 development agenda take a gender-responsive approach and include gender audits. This is non-negotiable in order to ensure that goals and targets for gender equality are not just lip service.

Soroptimist International urges Member States to discuss these issues honestly and openly and to tackle the challenges head-on in order to create a truly transformative post-2015 development agenda.

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Statement submitted by United Cities and Local Governments, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Statement

If the post-2015 process is by essence intergovernmental, under the leadership of United Nations, it should be, as raised in the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, an open, transparent and inclusive process. Furthermore, local governments support the United Nations task team in its call for a global and more holistic approach towards defining the new framework, based on the principles and values adopted in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

The agenda should be universally ambitious, addressing both developed and developing countries, establish concrete end goals and targets while keeping in mind that one size does not fit all and the need for flexibility for each country, and should be people-centred.

Great successes have been encountered in the implementation of some of the Millennium Development Goals in many countries but national averages, which may show improvements at the country level, often hide severe subnational disparities. Territorial inequalities should be addressed by the future agenda.

The goals and targets of the future development agenda should provide some guidelines on how and who should act. This suggests the need for a shift in focus from lists of goals and targets of what must be done, to how key goals and targets would be achieved and who has to act and be supported.

Key principles for reshaping the global partnership for development and strengthened accountability mechanisms are as follows:

- Success in the post-2015 process success can only be guaranteed if we develop a sense of ownership and accountability at all levels, international, national and subnational
- The agenda should be based on the needs of the people and communities at the local level
- The agenda should further promote a high degree of policy coherence at the global, national but also subnational levels and define shared responsibilities

An urbanized world

Sustainable urbanization is increasingly recognized as a crucial issue and platform for change in the coming years owing to rapid urbanization, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

The Rio Declaration adopted in June 2012 has highlighted the importance of urban issues. On that occasion, the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, highlighted the strategic role played by cities, declaring that the road to global sustainability ran through the world's cities and towns and that the building of more sustainable cities and regions would lead us to a more sustainable world.

Indeed, cities represent both the greatest challenge and the greatest hope for a sustainable future. Urban areas are now, more than ever, recognized as central to economic growth and development. Cities are major places of consumption and production, innovation and exchange. However, they are also the locus for many development challenges. United Nations projections suggest that almost all of the

growth in the world's population in the period 2010-2030 will be in the urban areas of present-day low- and middle-income countries, with particularly rapid urbanization expected in Africa and in Asia. The infrastructure to provide food, basic services and employment for all of the 1.4 billion new urban dwellers still does not exist. Moreover, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and dependency on fossil fuels in existing human settlements continue to prevail. Furthermore, urban population growth will be accompanied by an expansion of the built-up area of cities over neighbouring areas, much of which will take place in low-elevation coastal and other risky zones adjacent to biodiversity hotspots and prone to cyclones, floods and sea-level rise.

Sustainable development goals and post-2015 development agenda

At the present, critical stage of the negotiations, the local and regional authorities strongly encourage Member States and the global development community to build on the lessons and achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, capitalize on the megatrend of urbanization in order to halt growing inequality and long-standing poverty through intervention at the city-region scale and acknowledge the urban challenge and support the territorial approach and the cohesion needed to ensure that all citizens have access to the basic services that lay the ground for prosperous livelihoods and societies by adopting a stand-alone goal on sustainable urbanization in the post-2015 development agenda.

Stand-alone goal on sustainable urbanization

The urbanization trend will affect many of the sustainable development policies to be adopted within the framework of the sustainable development agenda. Therefore, all goals should have an urban focus.

Beyond the transversality of the urban approach, many Member States, major groups, civil society organizations and local and subnational governments and their associations consider that a stand-alone goal on sustainable urbanization is required in order:

- To provide holistic, integrated, territorial-based, inclusive, visionary and transformative solutions to address and meet the complex social, economic, environmental, cultural and institutional challenges of the urban world of the twenty-first century
- To seize the opportunities that local and subnational governments offer as actors and governmental stakeholders in development and in urban areas as agents of national economic growth and as the locus of technological, social and governance innovation
- To foster the multilevel and multi-stakeholder collaboration necessary for concomitantly managing and planning urban areas, urban-rural continuums, surrounding areas, communities and ecosystems

Indeed, the sustainable urbanization agenda cannot be developed without taking into account the territory in which global urbanization will have impacts: it must overcome the dichotomy of rural versus urban, and ensure cohesion among territories within the important metropolization processes that are taking place.

The adoption of such a goal will further demonstrate the integrating and interconnecting role played by cities and regions, their importance in global resource footprints, and their key contributions towards achieving long-term sustainability for all by translating broad global goals into concrete, real world implementation efforts.

Moreover, a goal on sustainable urbanization will send a strong political signal and provide a solid policy framework that will enable and empower action by all levels of government. The elaboration of sustainable urbanization requires collaboration among the various levels of governance in the territories, particularly at the local and subnational levels. It needs also to be based on a close link with civil society actors, namely, private sector and civil society organizations, with specific attention to initiatives led by youth and women's organizations.

Beyond urbanization: role of local governments in the sustainable development agenda

In the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Member States acknowledged efforts and progress made at the local and subnational levels, and recognized the important role that such authorities and communities could play in implementing sustainable development.

To ensure that local governments have the full capacity to engage in the achievement of the future development agenda, consideration should be given to the issues presented below.

Multilevel governance

Governance should be recognized as a transversal theme of all Millennium Development Goal and sustainable development goal frameworks.

The imperative of greater decentralization to local governments must be recognized. The basic guiding principle of subsidiarity must be promoted as a vehicle to strengthen democracy and service provision, and an enabling environment should be ensured to enable local authorities to take on their responsibilities, that is, adequate institutional frameworks, reinforced management capacities and, above all, subnational resources.

The entrenchment of local democracy should be seen as a vector or lever of change for sustainable development and stronger governance. Important progress has been made with regard to local democracy but considerable efforts are needed to strengthen effective, transparent and accountable local institutions. Subnational authorities can only take on their responsibilities and be held accountable by their constituents if the distribution of resources and responsibilities among the different levels of government is clearly defined and well balanced. Developing solid intergovernmental relations and appropriate governance represents a daunting challenge that should be reflected in adequate expenditure at the local level.

Women's participation in political life

The promotion of women's participation in local decision-making processes must play a pivotal role in the global development strategy over the next 10 years.

The equal representation of women and men in elected posts at all levels of government is a priority objective owing to the impact that it has on other spheres of activity. Increased participation of women in political life contributes to women friendly services, greater employment of women, and policy development based on the specific needs of women and girls.

Particular attention should be devoted to the participation of women and other vulnerable groups in local institutions, both through traditional forms of public consultation and innovative forms of participation (i.e., participatory budgeting and planning).

Urban planning and territorial cohesion

Local governments are key players in ensuring urban governance and well-functioning interaction between urban centres and the surrounding rural areas. As the economic and social linkages between rural and urban areas increase, their relationship contributes to regional integration. National urban policies should contribute to and facilitate local urban policies, promoting an enabling environment to local planning and supporting local self-governance.

Urban planning should:

- Respond to changing local contexts in order to promote more compact, mixed and inclusive cities, reducing urban sprawl and promoting public space as a place for social interaction, under the premise of sustainability and poverty reduction
- Strengthen the environmental dimension and the sustainability and resilience of cities by enabling the assessment of risk, the reduction of vulnerability to disasters, and the reduction of the energy consumption and footprint of cities
- Build on the links between economic and spatial planning to attract and promote economic development which creates jobs and wealth

Inclusive cities and territories

Urbanization is a contradictory process: although cities constitute the space to which people come with the expectation of finding more opportunities, they also generate serious problems of social exclusion, inter alia, job insecurity, pollution, spatial segregation and precarious housing. Poverty is becoming more and more urbanized, particularly in middle-income countries.

Local governments, as both the providers or managers of a range of basic services (e.g. water, sanitation, basic education, health, environmental protection, culture, urban and territorial planning etc.) and the implementers of many responsibilities linked to health, education, economic opportunity and risk reduction, targeting the most vulnerable social sectors and minorities, are key to ensuring efficient policies for poverty reduction and equality in urban areas and thereby reducing inequalities.

One member in seven of the world's population lives in urban slums or informal settlements that have inadequate or no provision for infrastructure and services. In low- and middle-income nations, these settlements often house one third to one half of the city's population (and usually a higher proportion of its workforce). It is within these settlements that many aspects of inequality become

most evident: in the provision of basic services and infrastructure, in housing quality and in access to health and education.

Many local governments have greatly reduced inequalities by upgrading programmes in informal settlements, including expanding water, sewerage and drainage networks, expanding or improving provision for solid-waste collection, and influencing the prices and availability of housing through the provision of land. Many city governments now work with the organizations and federations of slum and shack dwellers to address directly a range of inequalities that include housing tenure, infrastructure, services, rule of law and participation.

The management of migration is becoming a challenge in many contexts, not only for national governments but local governments which are increasingly involved in its management.

There are many examples of cities having developed innovative policies to combat segregation through urban rehabilitation of neighbourhoods, fostering multiculturalism to promote inclusion and combat discrimination or promoting prevention of risk in vulnerable communities, in partnership with civil society organizations.

Also at the core of sustainable urban development and inclusive cities is the explicit consideration of cultural issues as a necessary condition. Culture is both a driver of development (through a solid cultural policy, with museums, festivals and cultural centres) and an enabler of development (because culture generates wealth, creates social inclusion and regenerates the territory).

We must build cities that maintain their heritage, with the active involvement of the cultural expressions of the inhabitants and from perspectives based on creativity and innovation.

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Statement submitted by Universal Peace Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Statement

While the United Peace Federation supports many items in the prescribed focus areas, it encourages consideration of the family unit as a means of achieving the sustainable development goals. As we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, we are reminded that, as stated in the preamble to the Doha Declaration adopted by the International Conference for the Family (A/59/52, annex), the family is not only the fundamental group unit of society, but is also the fundamental agent for sustainable social, economic and cultural development. Research has shown that projects initiated at the family level are more successful and will achieve sustained results.

In the same way the family can help achieve the Millennium Development Goals, it can be of critical importance in achieving the sustainable development goals. There are numerous examples of families contributing to the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals. In the book entitled *The Family and the MDGs — Using Family Capital to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, one author addressed focus area 1, stating that development was empowerment and about local people taking control of their own lives, expressing their own concerns and finding their own solutions to their problems. The author considered that, as we empower families with additional resources and education to break through the poverty barrier, we lift generations to come, and that projects that identify the family as the entry point seem to have more success than those that target other social units.

There are numerous examples of community associations formed to help family farmers to improve their ability to buy seeds and other agriculture input and to market their produce as a group. Family-based cooperatives raise communities out of poverty, family by family.

Agricultural programmes that address the family as a unit have been observed to have a direct impact on gender equality; for example, family-focused farming increases men's involvement in agricultural productivity, bringing some relief to women who more commonly perform most of the work involved in growing vegetables. Furthermore, extension education for family farmers increases knowledge in relation to successful agriculture and teaches methods to overcome land degradation and soil depletion, thus protecting our environment.

As smallholder farmers become more successful, the food supply increases at the local level, where it is needed most, and the goals of focus area 2 can be accomplished. If developing nations could increase productivity and profitability of the family farms of the world, basic nutrition and food supply would increase. Access to education would increase, as parents have the funds to send their boys and girls to school. Health care would be expanded as the family has the funds for health-care needs.

There are many other examples of how focusing on the family unit leads to effective implementation in regard to the key focus areas. The family has great capacities to encourage and promote education, empowerment of women, essential social skills, job skills and literacy. All are necessary conditions for a realistic and successful sustainable development agenda. Thus, the family is a driver of sustainability and must be included in the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

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Statement submitted by Women's Health and Education Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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Please recycle

Statement

It is a startling and sobering fact that, in 2014, every minute of every day, a woman dies in pregnancy and childbirth somewhere in the world. The Women's Health and Education Center aims to improve women's health through education and advocacy, particularly in developing countries. The Center's website, launched in cooperation with the United Nations, provides information on everyday issues associated with women's health. This e-learning initiative is active in 226 countries.

Health-care providers usually have interest or passion in a particular global issue or a particular region of the world. Preparing the next generation of health-care providers in the international arena, deepening their knowledge and improving the skill set for a career in global health and global governance are needed. The programmes expose health-care providers to both the academic training and practical knowledge necessary for developing a career trajectory that will focus the passion of health-care providers and actualize their desire to have an impact on national and international health-care policies. The programme is building the capacity to care.

In 2006, the Center began to develop scientifically based practice guidelines, in the form of practice bulletins, with a view to improving maternal health. The guidelines are derived from the best available evidence of clinical efficacy and with consideration given to costs, with recommendations explicitly linked to the evidence. These evidence-based practice guidelines are intended to be a means of improving the quality of health care, decreasing its cost and diminishing professional liability. They are proscriptive in nature and, therefore, directive in approach. The Center's board of physicians identifies, evaluates and synthesizes evidence from the medical literature to produce the practice bulletins, which serve as a readily available introduction to and overview of the topic.

The Center's website is designed as a resource for health-care providers and the general public which offers a better understanding of reproductive health and cultural understanding. The articles on the website provide an overview of current clinical management guidelines in respect of women's health, focusing on the components integral to providing optimum care. The articles are designed for all members of the interdisciplinary team: physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, midwives, nurses, social workers, therapists and other members seeking to enhance their knowledge of women's health and appropriate care and management.

The Center's website offers a vision for the globalized world. The use of information science and telecommunications to support the practice of medicine when distance separates the caregiver from the patient is the way forward to making medical care more affordable and more accessible in every country.

International development has moved beyond charity. It has reached a new, globally competitive stage, bringing with it enormous strategic and economic implications for all the nations and citizens of the world in the years ahead.

The challenge and opportunity are here. Let us make every mother and child count!

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Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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Please recycle

Statement

We, 227 participants from 73 countries representing all continents, composed of representatives of national and local governments, regional organizations, international, regional and local non-governmental organizations, academics, parliamentarians, the private sector and families, participating in the World Family Summit +9 and having accomplished the agenda with very participatory and fruitful discussions in all plenary sessions;

Taking into consideration that the deadline agreed in 2000 for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is approaching and acknowledging that efforts are still needed to accomplish them;

Recognizing that, in order to build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals, further steps have to be taken to advance after the deadline of 2015;

Taking note of the worldwide efforts to conduct consultations and discussions among Governments and civil society at large and at all levels on how to draw up a post-2015 development agenda capable of responding to the global challenges of the twenty-first century, with a view to building on the Millennium Development Goals;

Recognizing that the world's two biggest challenges are how to end poverty and how to promote sustainable development by putting in place a new agenda able to bring together all stakeholders determined to change the course of things, to reject business-as-usual, to confront challenges, to transform thinking, to find new ways of working and to bring about paradigm shifts;

Welcoming the positive results and outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the report of the Secretary-General entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015" and the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which brought about a vision and framework for the post-2015 development agenda all while emphasizing that the new agenda should reflect the concerns of the people;

Welcoming and supporting the vision of sustainable development elaborated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as a holistic concept addressing the four dimensions of society — economic development, social and cultural inclusion, environmental sustainability and good governance, including peace and security — and recognizing that a sustainable development path builds on a global framework for cooperation to address the above dimensions;

Considering the recommendations and declarations of the first World Family Summit held in Sanya, China, in 2004, the World Family Summit +1 in Aracaju, Brazil, in 2005, the World Family Summit +2 in Amman in 2006, the World Family Summit +3 in Warsaw in 2007, the World Family Summit +4 in Cairo in 2008, the World Family Summit +5 in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2009, the World Family Summit +6 in Paris in 2010, the World Family Summit +7 in Abu Dhabi in 2011 and the World Family Summit +8 in Iguazu Falls, Brazil, in 2012;

Noting the outcomes of the preparations and celebration of the International Year of the Family in 1994, the preparations and celebration of its tenth anniversary

in 2004 and the importance of preparations for the twentieth anniversary due to be celebrated in 2014;

Welcoming the results and recommendations of the five plenary sessions held at the World Family Summit +9 on the five transformative shifts for a forward-looking, compelling and integrated sustainable development agenda;

Have adopted the following declaration:

A new post-2015 era demands an innovative vision and a responsive framework, enabled by the integration of economic growth, social justice, peace and environmental stewardship, that must become our global and local guiding principle and operational standard, bringing together the full range of human aspirations and needs.

The five transformative actions of the post-2015 development agenda should be supported by multi-stakeholder partnerships of Governments, international and regional organizations, local authorities, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, research institutes and academia, the private sector, volunteer groups and families, in order to channel commitment and actions from a wider set of actors, keeping in mind that the success of such partnerships depends on assigning roles, responsibilities and clear accountability.

If clear goals and targets are set for the new agenda, it could be a powerful force for change; the agenda should have a strong impact on sustainable development, a compelling and easy-to-understand message, measurable indicators, be widely applicable and be grounded in the voice of the people and the dignity of the person.

Ensuring that no family is left behind

The agenda also needs to tackle the causes of poverty, exclusion and inequity and address the concerns of the most vulnerable, with a view to ensuring that in the future income, gender, ethnicity, disability and geographical location no longer determine whether people will live or die, whether a mother can give birth safely or whether a child will have a fair chance in life.

In addition, the agenda must connect families in urban and rural areas to the modern economy through quality infrastructure such as roads, electricity, irrigation, telecommunications, business opportunities, quality health-care services and education for all.

It must end all forms of discrimination; promote equality between men and women, girls and boys; establish clear rules for equal rights to inherit and own property and businesses; ensure community control of environmental resources; assure people's personal safety; and provide collective access to basic social justice and peace.

In the light of the above, we recommend the following:

(a) Family poverty must be eliminated and families must benefit from appropriate social protection systems;

(b) Family issues should be integrated into the sustainable development goals and associated targets;

(c) All family members should receive quality education and have access to lifelong learning services and affordable, quality health care;

(d) Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls should be promoted, including in order to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence.

Putting sustainable development at the heart of the new development agenda

By promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and managing the natural resource base of economies, national and local governments, businesses and families can balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages among them to set out the core elements of sustainable lifestyles that can work for all.

The new agenda must ensure an enabling environment for good governance at national and local levels, taking into account the fact that respect for human rights, peace and security, transparency and accountability are important means for achieving all the dimensions of sustainable development. Since sustainable development is the sum of the actions of all families, it is important for all stakeholders to be able to participate in decision-making at all levels.

We therefore make the following recommendations, in addition to those listed above:

(a) Ensure universal access to energy for all families;

(b) Increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix;

(c) Improve soil quality, reduce soil erosion and combat desertification;

(d) Ensure water and food security for all families.

Transforming economies for jobs and inclusive growth

The new agenda must foster profound economic transformation in order to end poverty and improve the livelihoods of all families. There must be rapid, equitable, long-term and inclusive growth to overcome the challenges of unemployment, especially for women and young people.

The first priority must be to create opportunities for good and decent jobs and to secure livelihoods so as to make growth inclusive and ensure that it reduces poverty and inequality. However, that is not enough. People need to be educated, trained and equipped with the skills they need to be successful in the job market and respond to the demands of businesses for more skilled workers.

Supportive policies for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises will develop their capacity to create added value, by innovating and absorbing new technologies and producing higher quality and a greater range of products. Governments must put in place a stable environment that enables businesses to flourish, in addition to simple and smart regulatory frameworks for starting, operating and closing down e a business.

In the light of the above, we make the following recommendations:

(a) Promote full and productive employment, decent work for all and social protection;

(b) Increase the number of good and decent jobs and secure livelihoods;

(c) Decrease the number of young people not in education, employment or training;

(d) Strengthen productive capacity by providing universal access to financial services and infrastructure;

(e) Promote an enabling business environment and boost entrepreneurship, including young people's and women's self-employment;

(f) Strengthen flexible working arrangements to reconcile the balance between work and family life;

(g) Recognize and compensate unpaid work within the family.

Building peace and ensuring open and accountable public institutions

The most essential human requirement for building peaceful and prosperous societies is freedom from conflict and violence. Capable and responsive States and family-friendly societies can build transparent and accountable Governments and public institutions that are responsive to families' needs. A fundamental shift to recognize peace and good governance as core elements of families' well-being must take place.

Societies should organize their dialogue through institutions, with national and local authorities and families working together to bring about a swift reduction in corruption, money laundering, tax evasion, hidden ownership of assets and illicit trade of arms and drugs.

In the light of the above, we make the following recommendations:

(a) It should be recognized that respect for human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all family members is essential to family well-being and to society at large;

(b) Bribery and corruption should be reduced and officials should be held accountable;

(c) The transparency of financial flows should be ensured and public participation and civic engagement in decision-making at all levels should be increased.

Forging a new global partnership

Recommendations:

(a) The new global partnership should be based on genuine cooperation to strengthen equity, solidarity, human rights, development and prosperity for all families of the world;

(b) The partnership should merge the environmental and development agendas and tackle the causes and symptoms of poverty in an integrated and universal way.

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Statement submitted by World Society for the Protection of Animals, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-03887 (E) 050614

Please recycle

Statement

Over 1 billion of the world's poorest people depend on animals for jobs, food, income, transport, social status or cultural identification, as well as financial security. In other words, their animals are their main productive asset. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want", Member States recognized that the livelihoods of farmers, including pastoralists, and the health of livestock are intertwined.

The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially goals 1, 3, 6 and 7, can be supported by good animal welfare solutions. The World Society for the Protection of Animals works towards the urgent international recognition of animal welfare as an essential element of sustainable development. Simply put, helping animals helps people.

Global adherence to animal welfare principles have significant positive impacts on poverty eradication, food security, public health, climate change and the preservation of biodiversity. As the world's poorest people are the most vulnerable to disasters, it is also vital to integrate animal welfare into disaster resilience and emergency planning. This helps to prevent the unnecessary suffering of people and of livestock and significantly enhances post-disaster recovery.

Wild animals also provide an important source of livelihood security for poor rural communities in developing countries and the economic growth of countries as a whole via responsible ecotourism. In its resolution 65/173, the General Assembly recognized the importance of ecotourism as a means of eradicating poverty. Recently, a broad, collaborative partnership, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank, recognized that sustainable tourism is one of the most effective ways of providing employment opportunities and economic security for local communities while protecting the world's natural resources.

Gender aspects are also very relevant as poor women represent the majority of poor livestock keepers — about two thirds of them — and the welfare of their animals has a huge impact on their livelihoods and their families.

Animals should be part of, and have a lot to contribute to, the eradication of poverty, to decreasing the impact of disasters, to the protection of biodiversity and to food security and nutrition.

Additionally, animals should be considered in long-term development plans related to public health as, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 60 per cent of all diseases affecting people and about 75 per cent of emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic. Moreover, there are increasing concerns that the widespread non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in intensive livestock production is contributing to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant microbes. The FAO report *Edible Insects: Future Prospects for Food and Feed Security* states that "[i]ntensive animal production with high densities of animals is a starting place for many significant health issues and has been known to trigger the emergence of antimicrobial resistance".

The current failure to achieve universal food security can in part be accounted for by the lack of coordination and balance between animal-based and plant-based food production on a local, national and international scale. Globally, 53 per cent of all oil crops and 38 per cent of all cereals are used to feed livestock. To meet the vast feed demands of industrial animal production, large areas of pasture and forest have been converted to grow crops, displacing communities, limiting the grains available for people to eat and contributing to food price volatility.

Animal welfare is instrumental to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including goals 1, 3, 6 and 7, and should be taken into consideration when Member States draft the new post-2015 development framework.

Regarding the post-2015 development framework, the World Society for the Protection of Animals would suggest the following specific areas for consideration:

(a) To protect development gains and to prevent disasters pushing households below the poverty line, it is essential that the new goals assist people in maintaining those assets that are essential to their livelihoods and food security. Therefore, we recommend targets that focus on reducing disaster losses in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries by protecting livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;

(b) Food loss and waste occur during both the production and consumption phases and must therefore be addressed in both. Continuing to feed cereals to growing numbers of livestock will aggravate poverty and environmental degradation. A target aiming at the reduction of food loss and waste of all types of food and throughout the food supply chain is crucial;

(c) The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development reaffirms the necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable agriculture systems. In this sense, the new global development framework should include targets on increasing sustainable agriculture practices, including sustainable livestock, fishing and forestry practices as key elements for achieving food security;

(d) The crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems to sustainable development is clearly recognized in the outcome document through a commitment to protect, and restore, the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems. The global community also committed to achieve significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment by 2025. The expansion of the current network of marine protected areas is the most effective and sustainable route to protecting and restoring both the health and productivity of marine ecosystems and therefore should be reflected in the post-2015 development framework;

(e) Finally, access to safe and effective medicines and ensuring that essential medicines are affordable to all are key aspects of a global health goal. Of particular concern is the non-therapeutic and preventive use of antibiotics in livestock production that contributes significantly to the fast-rising antibiotic resistance in humans. Without the conservation of effective antibiotics, the task of ensuring adequate and affordable health services for all will prove impossible. That is why

reducing to zero the non-therapeutic and preventive use of antibiotics in livestock production is crucial to protect adequate and affordable health care for all.

Animal welfare contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and will contribute to the post-2015 development framework. The World Society for the Protection of Animals remains at the disposal of Member States to contribute to this long-term commitment.

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Statement submitted by World Society of Victimology, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32738 (E) 150514

Please recycle

Statement

This statement is intended as a pointer to some of the issues relevant to both victims and the theme of the Economic and Social Council high-level segment.

The problem of victimization throughout the world causes an ever-increasing concern, even in those nations where there has been a marked decrease in victimization. It is tragic that the very factors that have led, and continue to lead, to humankind's success are also those most likely to contribute to individual and collective victimization. On the one hand, for instance, foreign aid helps the disenfranchised, disadvantaged and vulnerable. Yet, on the other hand, it helps to keep authoritarian dictators and corrupt governments in power while victimizing those considered their enemies.

Governments, business and civil society that ignore such victimization and, among other things, fail to take heed of the rights abuses are explicitly and implicitly complicit. Thankfully, steps taken to achieve the Millennium Development Goals suggest that a lot of people get this and do not want to live in a world of extremes.

Violent crime is a prime example. Its impact daily on people's lives is profound and prolonged; its impact on economic development and social well-being is enormous. People are too often safer on the streets than in their homes. Women and children may be safer with a stranger than with a close family member, friend or acquaintance. Violent crime is not spread evenly throughout the world; in fact, there are marked differences among countries and within countries. Daily, people witness the vivid and frightening effects of violence, but too often such horror does not stir the condemnation warranted.

Furthermore, violence should be understood in terms of personal pathology and in social, economic and political terms. The causes of violence include frustration, anger, prejudice and grievances, mental illness, drug misuse and abuse, homelessness, disturbed home environments, and unstable social structures and economic structures, such as inequitable distribution of resources.

Much can be done to alleviate the destructiveness of violence and reduce human suffering. Consistent with the Millennium Development Goals, in order to reduce violence, for example, the world's resources need to be more equally shared so that the gap between the rich and the poor is narrowed. Food distribution, as a specific example, needs to be equalized so that the malnourished do not starve while the fewer grow obese.

It is imperative that those in power in nation-States respect the needs of all. The United Nations is tasked to be the most important forum for overseeing concrete steps taken to reduce violence and prevent victimization. The successes towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals suggest that the international community is heading in the right direction; however, since the economic crisis, for too many struggling victims, Governments, businesses and others seems to be stumbling, rather than engaged in concerted action. The World Society of Victimology calls on all to broaden their horizons beyond self-interest, beyond nation and beyond region to humankind as a whole.

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Statement submitted by Yakutia — Our Opinion, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Please recycle

Statement

The Millennium Development Goals included eradicating poverty as one of the goals, but many Governments do not take effective poverty eradication measures. We need a global partnership for implementing human rights, including applying coercive measures.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union 23 years ago, the Russian Federation had the opportunity to ensure a decent life for people, but it was not done.

The Russian Federation has massively violated human rights for a long time, and continues to do so. It presented, and presents, false information on many issues. Its arguments on certain issues directly contradict the information of United Nations bodies and stakeholders, and its foreign policy is cynical, hypocritical and based on double standards.

Prerogatives in the Russian Federation (profitable businesses, high-paying jobs, lucrative public contracts) are distributed among officials and oligarchs, their relatives and friends. In fact, a feudal system has been approved that deprives future generations of Russians of a future. According to official data, less than 20 per cent of the Russian population has incomes below the minimum subsistence level. However, in reality the majority of Russians live below the poverty line because of the undervaluation of minimum social standards, the low real purchasing power of income, the unreliability of average statistical data and the overestimation of prices and tariffs. This leads to hunger and poverty, which threaten the physical survival of people and may be classified as creating conditions for genocide.

The Government of the Russian Federation states that it does not have the financial capacity to ensure a decent life for the majority, but the State's priorities do not take into account the interests of the majority. The State is aimed at enriching the minority. If the authorities do not have enough money to ensure a decent life for the majority, how can it ensure a good living for the minority (1.5 per cent of Russia's population owns 50 per cent of the national assets)? Why are there 131 Russian billionaires with combined capital of $147 billion? They became billionaires as a result of unfair and criminal privatization.

It is false that the Russian Federation cannot ensure a decent life for the majority. Russia has enough financial resources. For example, under the law "On the rights of Russian citizens to incomes from exploitation of the natural resources of the Russian Federation", Russia can provide proper redistribution of revenues from natural resources to every Russian citizen. We also need to introduce a progressive income tax, increase the understated social standards, stimulate consumption and adopt other socially oriented measures.

However, instead, the Government of the Russian Federation continues to violate the basic right of every Russian citizen to a decent life, which in turn discredits the international process of human rights protection. This may continue indefinitely if appropriate sanctions are not applied. We propose more detailed consideration of this situation and that the Russian Federation be prosecuted for presenting false information and violating human rights. We urge United Nations bodies and stakeholders to take adequate coercive measures against the Russian Federation, that is, apply diplomatic, procedural, trade, financial and other sanctions. It is also appropriate to consider blocking foreign assets of the country

and its exclusion from international organizations. Regardless of their status, all persons responsible for human rights violations must be prosecuted. It is necessary to find the Russian senior officials responsible for human rights violations in Russia and bring them to justice.

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Statement submitted by Youth Awareness and Guidance Organisation, Agbarha-Otor, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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Please recycle

Statement

In 2000, the Government of Nigeria and 188 other Governments made the Millennium Declaration and committed themselves to eradicating poverty and attaining the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

In meeting the Goals, there have been challenges in different areas for Nigeria. For Goal 1, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, which is crucial to existence, there has been no change. Poverty and hunger reign supreme for lack of employment. The quality of life and life expectancy are below standard. The Government has failed to collaborate with grass-roots non-governmental organizations that can reach the majority of the population.

On Goal 2, achieving universal primary education, a reduction in illiteracy has been achieved, as observed in Delta State. This has an important role in national development. Delta State has also done well in trying to achieve Goals 4 and 5, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health.

Promoting gender equality and empowering women is still greatly needed, given that women are the bedrock of every family. Women should be given equal opportunities to strive. The remaining Goals have a significant impact on the masses, given that the majority of the people are not well informed, especially in rural areas. One of the things observed that contributes to challenges in achieving the Goals is a language barrier, i.e. being able to understand what is taught in English.

There should be promulgation of legislation for free and compulsory basic education and activities should be organized to create awareness for nation-building, involving civil society and non-governmental organizations so that they will mobilize and undertake advocacy for the Goals at the community level. Human capacity-building should be initiated through training and use of local languages because this can help to sustain the Goals in the future.